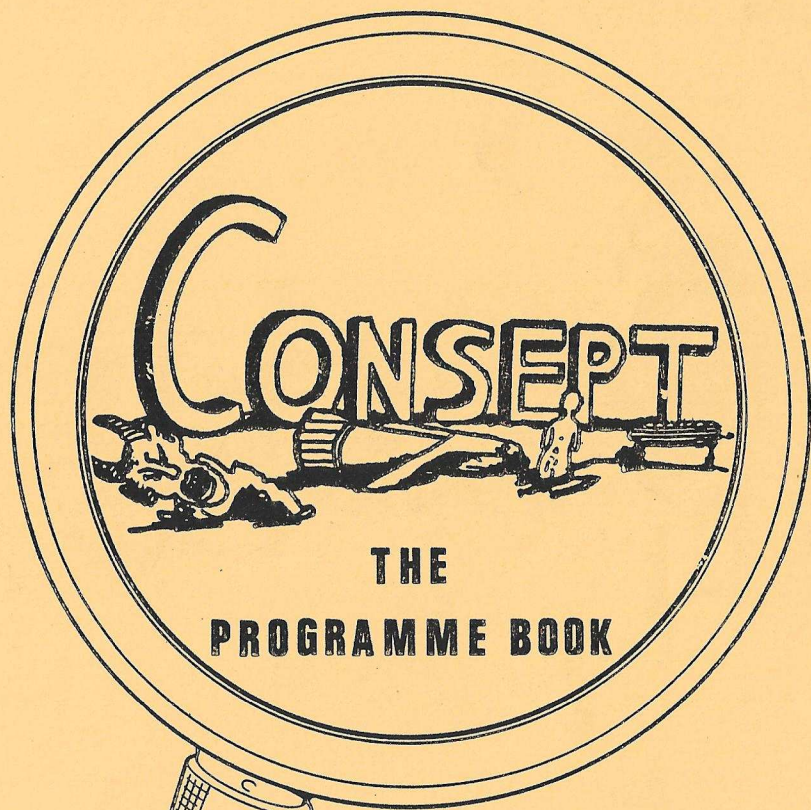


ConSept : Un7con



G. H. Tanith Lee

8-10th August 1986

University of Surrey

CONSEPT:UN7CON PROGRAMME BOOK

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THANKS

The following is a list of those people and organisations who have helped to make ConSept:Un7con happen by providing goods and services, usually in impossible timescales.

Steve Bull
DAW Books
Juliet Eyeions
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Bernie Peek
Roger Robinson

Ken Lake
Brian Stableford
Nick Lowe
Mike Christie
Marcus Rowland

Tim Broadribb
Mike Cule
Helen McCarthy
Peter Wareham
Gwen Funnell

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to ConSept, the seventh Unicon. It is traditional for the chairman to write a short piece, introducing new members to the theory and practice of SF conventions. Unfortunately, this isn't it for the very good reason that we don't have a chairman. For some reason this means that I have been lumbered with the job of explaining something that by its very nature is inexplicable.

Seasoned con-goers can of course skip the more basic aspects of this explanation. However, if you haven't been to a university convention before you should keep in mind that the university cannot be quite as flexible as an expensive hotel. Meal times are, of necessity, shorter and the accommodation less plush. Past Unicons have shown that this is no bar to having a good time. Having disclaimed all responsibility, on with the explanation!

About conventions:

When one announces that one is going to a science fiction convention, the usual reaction among family and friends seems to be shock, followed by questions like "what do you do there?" Perhaps this will make things clearer.

The typical outsider's view of a science fiction convention is a lot of people sitting around and having serious discussions about science fiction, interspersed with occasional cups of tea. The typical journalist's view of a convention is a bunch of lunatics running around wearing pointy plastic ears and behaving in an extremely silly and picturesque fashion. As you might expect, the truth is somewhere between the two.

Although there are serious and constructive (shortened to sercon) talks and discussions on the programme, there are also silly games, films and opportunities for dressing up and generally having a good time. This is because many of the people at the convention have been to lots of conventions and long ago got bored with debates on worthy subjects; they are more concerned with having a good time than with oedipal imagery in the works of Samuel Delany. Many people treat a convention as nothing more than a formalised party where they can drink in the bar, meet new people, have interesting conversations and, if all else fails, attend the programme.

If you are new to conventions, we hope you will find the programme interesting (after all we have spent a year putting it together), but if you find yourself at a loose end you are perfectly welcome to spend all your time in the bar, or even to explore the surrounding countryside. Above all, enjoy yourself because that's what conventions are all about.

Steve Davies



OUR GUEST OF HONOUR - TANITH LEE

Once upon a time a few years ago I was given the task of arranging the guests for a Fantasycon, which eventually became Mythcon (but that's another story). Fired with enthusiasm and the importance of my task I set out to ask all the fans I came into contact with who they would most like to see as a Guest of Honour. The answer was an overwhelming vote for the magically-named Tanith Lee, but the fans almost invariably added to their choice the information that "she doesn't go to conventions" or "you haven't a chance of getting her as a guest, she only does American cons". Being one of those naive mortals who merrily rush in where angels fear to tread, I blithely ignored all the advice and wrote straight to Tanith. It was the best decision I ever made. Tanith wrote straight back and accepted and the convention registrations trebled overnight. Now I was faced with a much more personal problem. I had been an avid reader of fantasy for many years, and had formed my own ideas about how each author would, or should, look. Since meeting various authors at conventions I had discovered that the excitement of meeting a favourite writer can be tempered by disappointment when they didn't quite match up to the magnificent character I had created in my imagination. Tanith, with her evocative name and wild, colourful books, had a particularly spectacular image...could she possibly live up to that, or would I be disillusioned?

When the day came I had influenza and a temperature of 102, but I'm convinced my fever was more anticipation than germs. I was not disappointed. My lasting impression of that first meeting is of Tanith's eyes, bright, full of expression and depth, very striking. She was slim, delicate but strong, with long flowing hair and exotic clothing. The French have a word for it: farouche. In short, Tanith looks like a heroine from her own books, a composite picture of all her heroines, in fact. She proved to be delightful to talk to, and had the convention "eating out of her hand" rapidly. Oh, and she likes cats.

That's my impression of Tanith, the woman, but what about Tanith, the writer? Why do I enjoy reading her work? Because there is an intensity, passion and fire in her work. Her books are always different, full of surprises. She isn't predictable either, and the only thing you can be sure to find in any of her work is quality. You won't find that one of her books seems to resemble several of the others with just the names changed, they are all individual and unique. What you will find is colour, character, plot and passion. Her work is full of action, imagery, shadows and light. As a cure for insomnia they're useless, but as the antidote to boredom they're perfect. I don't usually like the titles that book covers give their authors, but a recent cover gave Tanith the accolade of Crown Princess of High Fantasy... I'll go along with that!

A recent bid for an Eastercon, Contravention, ran a questionnaire to find out what fans really wanted at a convention. They asked who they would most like as Guest of Honour... guess who came out way ahead as favourite? Correct, it was Tanith Lee. This weekend will give you the chance to see why people voted for Tanith, and why they will continue to vote that way. She certainly gets my vote.

Anne Page

TANITH LEE:- A SHORT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Below you will find a bibliography of Tanith Lee's works as far as we could research them. However it should be noted that this list does not include any of the tremendous number of short stories that she has written.

Accurate to 1986 but possibly incomplete!

Novels

Anackire	1983
Animal Castle	1972
The Betrothed	1968
The Birthgrave	1975
The Castle of Dark	1978
Companions on the Road	1975
Cyrion	1982
Day by Night	1980
Days of Grass	1985
Death's Master	1979
Delirium's Mistress	1986
Delusion's Master	1981
Don't Bite the Sun	1976
The Dragon Hoard	1971
Drinking Sapphire Wine	1977
East of Midnight	1977
Electric Forest	1979

Novels

Kill the Dead	1980
Lycanthia, or The Children of Wolves	1981
Night's Master	1978
Prince on a White Horse	1982
Quest for the White Witch	1978
Sabella, or The Bloodstone	1980
Shon the Taken	1979
The Silver Metal Lover	1981
The Storm Lord	1976
Sung in Shadow	1983
Vazkor, Son of Vazkor	1978
Volkhavaar	1977
The Winter Players	1976

Omnibus Volumes

Companions on the Road	Contains:-	Companions and Winter Players
Drinking Sapphire Wine	Contains:-	Don't Bite the Sun and Drinking Sapphire Wine
Sometimes, after Sunset	Contains:-	Kill the Dead and Sabella

Collections

The Gorgon, and other beastly tales	1985
Princess Hynchatti and some other surprises	1972
Red as Blood, or Tales from Sisters Grimmer	1983
Tamastara, or The Indian Nights	1984
Unsilent Night	1981

TV & Radio Plays

Bitter Gate	Radio	1977
Death is King	Radio	1979
Red Wine	Radio	1977
Sand	Blake's 7 (TV)	1981
Sarcophagus	Blake's 7 (TV)	1980
The Silver Sky	Radio	1980

STEP INTO THE IMAGINATION



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THE CONCEPT: UN7CON COMMITTEES ARE;

BRIAN AMERINGEN

Brian sprang fully formed from the brow of Aston SF Group way back in the dear-dim days of 1971. Tucking Novacon 2 & Ompacon securely behind his belt he strode off down the years. He gave no thought to Those-Who-Ran-Conventions until a mishap at Novacon 9, when Graham England uttered those fateful words "Why don't WE run a convention". He failed his saving throw, became embroiled in Beccons, and latterly Un7con. He is small & dark, and has a penchant for puns & alcohol - a fan!

PETER COHEN

Peter Cohen was lured into fandom at Oxford by the dreaded OUSFG, an organisation rumoured to be responsible for terrorist attacks on assorted colleges and conventions. Within a week of his joining, he was lumbered with the job of librarian, but progressed no further in the hierarchy. Since then he has been involved with Fan groups in London, Portsmouth (where he was Secretary of the SHSFG) and Romsey. This is his first con committee but he has attended something over twenty conventions starting with Unicon 80. He has never got round to publishing his own fanzine but was a founding member of PAPA the men's APA and is currently racing John Stewart to be the first person to be thrown out of it twice.

STEVE DAVIES

Steve Davies (27), technical author for ICL, freelance nervous wreck and a fan since 1978. I am interested in books, music, food and fencing, though not necessarily in that order. After several years of not being noticed, I am trying to make my mark (X) on fandom or go broke in the attempt. In the furtherance of my nefarious aims I have acquired a beard, glasses and got on a convention committee. As an inherently lazy person, I will be the one slinking around looking very worried and muttering "Oh God! Now what have I let my self in for?"

TIM ILLINGWORTH

Tim got into fandom through the Cambridge University SF society, where he first met Colin Fine - a friendship which has got him into all sorts of places. He is in fact only 31, though the last few years spent running games at conventions and organising conventions have made him look older. He would like to get back into the habit of going to Worldcons, but is currently too poor as a result of twin hobbies of fandom and opera-going. Stated ambition - "I'd like to gafiate, but I just haven't the time".

ALISON McDONALD

Since being dragged, kicking and screaming, to Seacon '84, Alison McDonald has thrown herself wholeheartedly into fannish pursuits. Sometimes she wonders why. She was the only student on the ConSept committee, but has now graduated and so lost that distinction. She is round, brightly coloured and bounces a lot - this means she is often mistaken for a beachball by people who don't notice her weight.

CAROLINE MULLAN

Caroline went to Seacon '79 - The Worldcon - to buy a book, and stayed. After the first dozen or so conventions she began to think she ought to contribute something to some of them. So Unicon 7 is her fourth con committee, and she doesn't get much time for reading any more, but that doesn't stop her buying books. She has perennial problems with bookshelves, aka deadlines, and cash flow, but nevertheless enjoys fandom immensely. She is middling tall and blonde, and if anyone offers her a pint is likely to accept - a fan!

ANNE PAGE

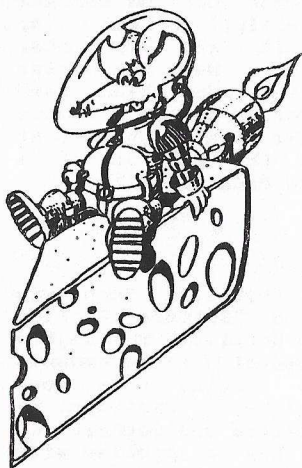
Large blonde costume enthusiast. Resides in the dangerous wilderness called Scotland from which she timidly emerges to attend conventions. Has been a BBC researcher but now teaches retarded children (not much different really!). Likes: cats, gardening, nature, moon-bathing, fruit and Twiglets. Dislikes: too much rain and ground elder. Has two secret ambitions: one: to M.C. a Worldcon Masquerade, which, fate willing, she may achieve next year; and two: to become a famous actress (don't laugh!). She celebrated her 35th birthday last year by experiencing her first ride on the pillion of a motorbike - at 120 m.p.h.! Wants to grow old disgracefully.

JOHN STEWART

Having read SF since about the age of thirteen, John was attracted to an advert in Time Out for a "Science Fiction Convention (Skycon) Easter 1978. Heathrow Hotel..." The sights seen at that convention have lead to him spending large amounts of time in various fannish activities ranging from beer smuggling in Brighton to trying to move pieces of Basildon. He has been on three convention committees and gophered at several conventions. As with Tim, he also has a problem with this fellow called time!!

A bid for the 1990 Worldcon

Go Dutch - our way!



That means we will look after the program and you will have the time of your life. We've come all the way from Holland to entertain you with Old World hospitality and a New World of possibilities for the 48th World Science Fiction Convention.

Interested? (Of course you are!). Look for the fans with those Big Mouse buttons and T-shirts, or treat yourself to a real Dutch room party: we'll come up with the drinks and you'll leave with a pre-supporting membership. Look out for our posters for the time and place.

By the way, if you haven't received your buttons and wooden shoes as a pre-supporter, come and visit us at Surrey and get your goodies!

The 1990 Worldcon in Holland? Sounds great!

**Pre-supporting
membership £ 4.00**

KLM Dutch Airlines has been appointed official carrier for the 48th Worldcon in the Hague.
Worldcon 1990, P.O. Box 95370, 2509 CJ The Hague, Holland.

GUILDFORD

Guildford is a town that offers the delights of both the old and the new to the visitor. For those who wish to step back into the past there is Guildford's historic centre - the steep cobbled High Street. Amongst the buildings of interest there are the Elizabethan Grammar School, Archbishop Abbott's Jacobean Hospital, the half-timbered Guildford House Art Gallery and the Seventeenth Century Town Hall. If history leaves you cold, then you will find that in common with virtually all modern towns, Guildford also has a "superb modern shopping centre". Perhaps of more immediate interest to fans, there is a good range of eating places and pubs (some of which are described in the Programme Guide).

If any of you should feel the need to escape from both the town and the convention for a while, then to the South and East lie the Downs and Weald with their idyllic scenery. Scattered all around Guildford are attractive villages and fine country houses and gardens, not least amongst these being Loseley House, home of the much appreciated Loseley ice-creams and yoghurts.

LEWIS CARROLL

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832-1898) is generally known by his pen-name of Lewis Carroll. He is remembered chiefly for 'Alice in Wonderland' and 'Alice Through the Looking Glass', but he also wrote other fantasies (such as 'Sylvie and Bruno') as well as a number of satires and mathematical puzzles.

When CLD's father died in 1868, the whole family decided to move to Guildford. Dodgson, who was living at Oxford, found them a house called 'The Chestnuts' at 3 Castle Hill (near the Guildford High Road) where they stayed for over thirty years.

During the university vacations Dodgson was a regular visitor to 'The Chestnuts' and some of his best-known work dates from this period (as does a rare pamphlet entitled 'The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary').

It was during one of his stays in Guildford that Dodgson died, and he was buried near St Mary's Church. Guildford museum has a number of relics and exhibits about Lewis Carroll.

Notes on the Programme

Film - TIME BANDITS

Another movie from many of the Monty Python crowd. This is the one which features John Cleese as Robin Hood, seven dwarves and Sir Ralph Richardson as God. A movie you ought to have seen already, but come along anyway.

A Question of Skiffy

A lighthearted quiz game based (somewhat loosely) on the BBC TV game of a similar title, played between a team of ex-Oxford fans and a team of media freaks. There is nothing at stake save fannish pride, so not many deaths are expected.

Stamps in Wonderland

Ken Lake has brought along a display of Gerald M. King's designs for the stamps of Wonderland, and the talk that goes with it. We can't manage an art show, but this should be of visual interest as well as being entertaining in its own right.

Juvenile Fantasy

Why do adults read children's fantasy? Is it true that fantasy for children is better-written and more varied than much of that for adults? Our carefully balanced panel will be trying to answer these questions in as many ways as possible.

Role-playing: Myth and Reality

John Dallman and Gary Stratmann will start a discussion on Role-playing games. The topics are fairly free-ranging but are likely to include an attack on commercialism, and different philosophies of role-playing.

Path Finder

A game for three teams of three, based on certain ideas of topology, though a knowledge of SF trivia will help. One of the few games to be run without the aid of a computer.

Film - THE CURSE OF THE CRIMSON ALTAR

A hallucinatory horror fantasy, based on H P Lovecraft's 'Dreams in the Witch House'. It features William Pratt's final screen appearance, as an expert on black magic, and has been described as 'disorienting and enigmatic' (in the catalogue!).

Film - THE MOUSE AND HIS CHILD

This is based on the story by Russell Hoban of the clockwork mouse and child who long to become self-winding. It has been described as 'A magnificent cartoon feature, with marvellous music and artwork', and if it's even half as good as the original story it will be well worth seeing. With Peter Ustinov doing some of the voices it promises well.

Con Runner

This is a workshop for those who would like to know more about how and why conventions happen, as well as for those who know quite well enough, and would like to relate their favourite horror stories to a new audience. All sizes of convention will be discussed, and I hope to have some people from media conventions along to discuss the similarities and differences.

Just a Minute

Hugh Mascetti won the contest at BECCON last summer, and part of his prize was the opportunity to make others sweat through it. He also gets to find out just how hard it is to run a games show!

Food Tasting

Are you interested in exotic and unusual foods? Then come along to the food-tasting. For a paltry sum, you will be able to taste the winning dishes of the competition (entrants get several free tastes) and discover heretofore undreamt of delights.

Enterprise Allowance Workshop

Is the Enterprise Allowance a cynical exercise in massaging the unemployment figures, or a genuine attempt to assist individuals to start viable businesses? Alex Stewart, Ashley Watkins and Mike Scott are all fans currently receiving the allowance. Come along and see what they think, and put your own views.

Costume Workshop & Fancy Dress

Helen McCarthy told you about her plans for this in PR3. She and Barbara Kitson are notable for the extent and variety of their costuming experience, so come and learn from them - there is going to be a Worldcon Masquerade in Brighton next year! Or come and make a costume for the ConSept fancy in the this evening. Or just come and have fun.

The Auction

There's not a great deal you can say about an auction, except - bring your books well labelled, bring plenty of money, and, most of all, bring yourselves and lots of enthusiasm.

Film - DUNE

The multi-million dollar blockbuster epic. Overall, well rated by the critics, though a number found it difficult to follow, as it is if anything too faithful to the novel; An unusual criticism in SF, where the opposite is more often true.

My Favourite Bad Book

What is the lure of the truly awful book? What entertainment can be found in listening to someone ripping chunks of still warm and dripping prose from the body of a book! Meet a book Neil Gaiman and Kim Newman (authors of Ghastly Beyond Belief) missed; a book to rival Plan 9 From Outer Space...

Film - CONDORMAN

The film they made of Robert Sheckley's 'The Game of X'! Enough said?

Up The Walls Of The World

What is it that no fan can ever get enough of? Our bookshelf panel will discuss how to make them, where to put them, and how to solve the inevitable space problem in a variety of ingenious ways. All ideas welcome, no matter how silly.

Awards: More Good Than Harm?

(Mike Cheater, Peter Cohen, John Dallman, Ken Lake and Mike Moir). What are awards for? Are there too many of them? Do they go to the right people? Are they exploited by publishers to mislead the SF reading public? Should L. Ron Hubbard have won the Hugo? All these and many more questions will be discussed by a panel, including Mike Moir who is administrator of the BSFA awards. The panel will be followed by the presentation of ConSept's very own awards which we can guarantee no publisher will want to use to advertise their books.

Business Meeting

Now that you've seen how we did the convention, you get a chance to select the committee who will do this next year. This is also the bit of the convention where the brickbats and bouquets get thrown. Some of you stand up and tell us what went wrong, and some of us stand up and attempt to explain why things were done that way in the first place.

Lewis Carroll Thing

A Thing on Lewis Carroll. What is a thing? It's a discussion meeting, where one person leads the discussion and everyone joins in by means of a "speaking object", which is thrown around the room. Only the person holding the object is allowed to speak... theoretically. The main topics of discussion will be the Alice books and The Hunting of the Snark.

Alien Encounter

You are walking with some friends across some hills near Guildford when you see something metallic glinting in the sunlight ahead of you. You all approach it carefully when a figure dressed in a spacesuit steps out of the bushes. You are now 10 feet away from an alien! What do you do? What do your friends do?

This is an attempt to create the above scenario; to investigate in a life-size role-playing way, what might happen if you really did come face-to-face with an alien.

Closing Ceremony

With a bit of luck all of the committee and the Guest of Honour will be gathered together in one place to shut up shop, hand out prizes, and probably take the blame.

So What Did You Think Of 'DUNE'?

And why do some translations between media - for example, from book to film, or vice versa - work, while other's notably (like Dune?) don't? If you've read and seen both Dune and The Mouse And His Child this discussion may be of particular interest.

Fit for Fandom

Are you fit for fandom? In a second round of last year's successful event, two teams of up-and-coming fans demonstrate their suitability for this mentally and physically taxing occupation.

Film - THE CHINA SYNDROME

This film is a documentary on the probability-altering effects of an appearance by Jane Fonda, showing her ability to make sober respectable nuclear power stations melt into a small puddle. Recent experiments in the Soviet Union have failed to duplicate the result. Topical (?).

And running continuously (well almost!) throughout the convention is;

The Scavenger Hunt

As a separate insertion in the programme book you should find an entry form for the scavenger hunt. This lists a variety of weird and wonderful objects as many of which as possible should be collected and handed in at the registration desk between 1:30 pm and 2:00 pm on Sunday. There is also a tie-break - you can hand in one object which is not on the list, and in the event of a tie the most amusing, entertaining or otherwise enlightening tie-break entry will win (hint: the judges find £50 notes extremely amusing, as long as you don't expect to get them back).

THE PROGRAMME

FRIDAY	MAIN	WORKSHOP
6.00 pm	Film - TIME BANDITS	
7.30 pm	Opening Ceremony	
8.00 pm	A Question of Skiffy	Stamps in Wonderland
8.30 pm		
9.00 pm	Juvenile Fantasy	Role Playing Games
10.00 pm	Path Finder 1	
11.00 pm	Film -THE CURSE OF THE CRIMSON ALTAR	

SATURDAY	MAIN	WORKSHOP
10.00 am	Film - THE MOUSE AND HIS CHILD	Con Runner
12.00 pm	The Third Millenium Brian Stableford talking about his and Dave Langford's new book.	
1.00 pm	Just a Minute	Food Tasting
2.00 pm	Enterprise Allowance	
3.00 pm	Interview with our GOH - TANITH LEE	—
4.30 pm	Path Finder 2	Costume Workshop
5.30 pm	Auction	
7.00 pm	Fancy Dress	
9.00 pm	Film - DUNE	Filking (Join the Vikings singing ballads of the old Space Lanes)
11.30 pm	My Favourite Bad Book	

SUNDAY**MAIN****WORKSHOP**

10.00 am	Film - CONDORMAN	Up The Walls Of The World
12.00 pm	Path Finder 3	Red Wine & The Silver Sky two Radio Plays by Tanith Lee
1.00 pm	Awards: More Good Than Harm?	
2.00 pm	Business Meeting	Lewis Carroll Thing
3.00 pm	Alien Encounter	
4.00 pm	Closing Ceremony	
5.00 pm	So What Did You Think of 'DUNE'	Overflow Auction
6.00 pm	Fit for Fandom	
7.00 pm	Film - THE CHINA SYNDROME	

Cambridge is, of course, a city of glorious architecture, verdant lawns, beautiful sunshine and ducks. Therefore, any convention held there will be a whirl of strawberries and cream and punting, won't it? Camcon, also known as Unicon 6, was held in September last year, in the glorious architecture of New Hall, in the pouring rain. New Hall is not the sort of thing that springs to mind when one thinks of a Cambridge college - it was built in the fifties and is constructed entirely of ugly grey concrete. Rumours abound that the design of the college was originally intended for a university in Kuwait, and was supposed to minimise heat retention. At any rate, they didn't have the heating on for the weekend of Camcon, and everyone froze.

Camcon's guest of honour was John Christopher, who is not often seen at conventions. The first time I got a chance to chat to him was late Sunday night, when he was trying to fulfill the impressive quest of buying a drink for everyone at the con. He talked a lot about The Tripods (freudian slip, folks, I mean Tripods - I just haven't recovered from finals yet). He compared the liberties taken with the text in the British and German adaptations. The BBC felt it could do as it pleased, but the Germans acted with typical Teutonic thoroughness. At one point, the producer came up to him and said, "You know that scene where the boys find out a fence is electrified by watching a squirrel trying to climb it and dying?" "Yes?", he replied. "Well, there is a lack of trained squirrels in Germany so we had to use a cat instead. I'm terribly sorry."

Camcon was definitely a convention that took risks. The main feature of the film programme was a complete showing of Peter Greenaway's *The Falls*, which is 3½ hours long and has no noticable plot. Many people began to watch this masterpiece, but only six made it to the bitter end, the rest being lured by the attractions of the bar. Another, more successful experiment was the food tasting. Many people brought a variety of dishes, ranging from the sublime (lemon devil's food cake) to the ridiculous (stuffed frog). Portions of these were sold off at 5p each, providing another boost for FanAid and a good lunch for many.

The masquerade was an enormous success, considering the size of the convention. There were several very popular entries, most notably the "fan from the gates of hell", who had a large number of tentacles and eyes, six sneakers and very few braincells. Its mode of travelling was a little like that of a Dalek, in that it had severe trouble negotiating stairs and eventually managed it by falling over.

Since Camcon coincided with the Jewish New Year, it was celebrated with a panel on 'Jews In Space'. This turned into the best kind of room-party free-ranging conversation, aided by slices of apple dipped in honey for refreshment. It was almost a pity this was on the programme, since programmed items have pre-determined ends and room-parties don't.

All things considered, Camcon was a pretty good convention.

Alison McDonald

CAMCON - AFTER THE DUST SETTLED

And lo, a year after its inception, Camcon came to pass, and on the whole, the fans looked on it, and felt it was good. We found that it is possible to run a convention, from scratch, with a totally inexperienced committee, and make a reasonable job of it. It isn't easy, though, and I'd like to present a few of the committee's thoughts on what went wrong and what didn't.

We were very lucky, in finding a site relatively quickly, in making a fairly good deal with New Hall, and in soft-landing from some of our organisational mistakes... The film projection arrangements were finalised the day before the con...

Our only major bit of bad luck was in the Steward (administrative head) of New Hall being called away just before the con. Not all of our agreements with her had made it down to department heads, and some frantic arranging was needed to try to make up.

Our Guest of Honour (John Christopher) was a considerable success, with a good speech, continual willingness to appear on the programme, and very accessible to the fans. The Tripods episodes he supplied in advance of their airing were much appreciated, as was his refusal of travelling expenses, on the grounds that he'd had too much fun to consider it as work! We owe a great deal to him, and to Ken Slater, who put us in touch with him, and gave considerable advice.

A fair proportion of the membership, as one would expect from a Cambridge Unicon, had never been to a convention before. The regular convention-goers were a little diluted among the students, which wasn't greeted with unmixed joy, but a lot of first-timers got involved in helping with the convention (that side of our gopher organisation went quite well) and quite a few have shown up at cons since. The number of con bids that have emerged since from people involved with Camcon is very gratifying - two Unicons, and at least one Eastercon.

The programme ran pretty well to time, thanks to a Green Room system that worked, and had some quite novel items, with very little that wasn't fresh. The Workshop programme was more popular than expected (there were sometimes more in there than in the main programme!) and seems to have started a Unicon tradition. The real instant tradition, though, was the Food Tasting, which produced an amazing variety of food, and very few ill-effects among the tasters. Some of our programme allocation was not so well judged, as the panel on 'The Datalink Society' ended up with an audience one bigger than the panel, but they seemed to enjoy themselves anyway.

Our communications were not what they could have been, either with each other or with the college. We had a lot of extra breakfasts for sale - too many people didn't find out. Too many people didn't know about the different site for the bar in the afternoon, and nobody found out about the concealed electric fire in each bedroom, which would have gone down rather well in the cold snap that hit us on Sunday.

The Budget and the Profit - ah, there lies a tale. Our budget was very conservative at first, as we were worried about attendance in a summer of conventions. We might have stretched it a little as things got better, but we were rather busy just before the convention... There were a lot of walk-ins, we didn't

have to pay for film projection, and no emergencies arose that needed cash. We'd planned not to touch the money that Oxcon passed on to us - and here we are with all this profit... Deciding what to do with it was a little nerve-wracking, but in the end we played safe.

We have bought, with the approval of the Unicon Steering Committee, a badge machine of the same type used by the Albacon committee. This is about the best value, in terms of usefulness to a convention, that we could afford. For the present, Tim Illingworth has charge of it, and should be contacted to borrow it.

Our thanks go to all our helpers, notably Gerbish & Mike Christie, and to our members, for enjoying the convention.

John Dallman

CAMCON ACCOUNTS

AREA	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NOTES
Accommodation Fees	£2286.20		1
Memberships	£1608.14		2
Payment to New Hall		£2539.10	3
Alternate Bar	£ 175.05	£ 176.45	
Programme Prizes & Drinks	£ 2.19	£ 186.28	
Film Hire		£ 145.96	
PRs & Programme Book		£ 276.32	4
Administration		£ 169.01	5
Guest of Honour		£ 44.00	6
Book Room	£ 27.50		
Insurance		£ 50.00	
Advertising	£ 8.00	£ 11.00	
Free Memberships		£ 21.00	7
Room Parties		£ 33.48	
Badges		£ 18.00	
Interest & Bank Charges	£ 13.95	£ 13.82	
OXCON Handon	£ 260.51		
CONSEPT Handon		<u>£ 350.00</u>	
TOTALS	£4381.54	£4034.42	
Balance	£ 347.12		
Badge Maker	£ 331.20		8
Final Residue (donated to charity)	£ 15.92		

The Auction raised £88.60 which has been donated to charity.

NOTES

1. 142 Nights @ £16.10

2. Attending £1310

Walk-Ins £ 110

Day Members £ 105

Supports £ 64.14

Presupports £ 19

This includes one payment of 10 dollars less commission.

3. The bill was rather confused. This payment covered
Accommodation
Function Rooms
A fee for 24 hour portorage

but I'm not certain how it broke down.

4. Flyers £ 10.00
PR1 £ 20.00
PR2 £ 34.00
PR3 £ 32.00
Programme Bk £ 160.00
Letraset etc £ 20.32
5. This covers photocopying, postage, stationary, disks and other minor committee expenses.
6. This covers the presentation tankard, and a meal for the GOH, and the Slaters. Accommodation is buried in the payment to New Hall. He refused to take his travelling expenses.
7. These were one donated to Live-Aid, one to the artist who drew the programme book cover, and one to a panellist who would not otherwise have been able to attend.
8. This includes parts for 1000 badges, and necessary spare parts. The badge maker is owned by the UNICON steering committee, for the use of Fandom as a whole.

UNICONS PAST

The first three Unicons were held at Keele University, and were run by students, members of their Science Fiction Society. After the third, the group running them split up, most of its members having graduated. Because Unicons were felt to be a good thing, not just by erstwhile committee members but by people who had enjoyed attending them, the Unicon charter was written to ensure that they continued along the lines of the originals. Each subsequent Unicon has been run in a different place by different committees, although John Stewart & Tim Illingworth are both on their second.

Name	Dates	Location	G.O.H.
Unicon 80	5th - 7th September 1980	Keele	Harry Harrison
Unicon 2	11th - 13th September 1981	Keele	John Sladek
Unicon 3	10th - 12th September 1982	Keele	Richard Cowper
Unicon 4	2nd - 4th September 1983	Essex	Ian Watson
Oxcon	24th - 27th August 1984	Oxford	Brian Aldiss
Camcon	13th - 15th September 1985	Cambridge	John Christopher

ConSept:Un7con was born in the traditional fashion of all conventions, over a drink in a convention bar, the bar of the Dragonara at the 1985 Eastercon in this particular case. Anne Page and I were talking about many things, including how often we were going to see each other over the next year or two, and since we mostly see each other at conventions, we started talking about forthcoming cons. At this point we realised that there was a distinct dearth of summer conventions for 1986. In fact, not a single English con had been announced for the seven months between Eastercon and Novacon. Of course, other people at Yorcon and elsewhere were thinking the same thing, so we ended up with about six to choose from - but that's life! In the meantime, what were we poor addicts to do? The answer to that, unfortunately, is very easy. We say, let's run one... and take the first step on the slippery slope to a con, a slope that Tim and John helped push us down by saying they would join the committee...

So why choose to put on a Unicon, rather than some other convention? The reasons are various, but included the wish to continue a tradition that at that time seemed likely to be broken for lack of anyone to continue it; a desire to experiment with slightly different characteristics from the standard hotel-based format; and a reluctance to start from scratch to build up a reputation when we could start with the advantage of past Unicons behind us.

There was one major argument against attempting to bid for a Unicon: it is that Unicons should be run by undergraduates, or at least by people with connections to a University or Polytechnic, and that in the absence of any such committee the Unicon series should be allowed to die. (See elsewhere in this Programme Book for a short history of Unicons, and the Unicon charter.) We felt the force of this argument quite strongly, especially since only one of us had any current connections with undergraduate con-running fans. We argued this out among ourselves, and decided, that if at any time before Camcon (Unicon 6) a student committee offered to run Unicon 7, we would bow out in their favour. In the meantime we recruited one genuine undergraduate (take a bow, Alison), and reassured ourselves as to the purity of our intentions. We were, after all, carrying the Unicon torch until it could be handed on to its rightful inheritors...

As did Camcon, Unicon 6, before us. The committee of Camcon included three Cambridge students among its eight members, but that committee was formed in the same way as ours: experienced con-goers and con-runners took on the job in the first place, and recruited undergraduates afterwards (shortly afterwards - in fact, later the same day, after the bidding meeting). It was probably true even before that, since the Oxcon (Unicon 5) committee included both experienced fans and undergraduates, and neither of the two members of the Unicon 4 committee known to me were studying at the institution where the con was held. So you have to go back to Unicon 3 to find a Unicon actually originated, and run, by students.

I can think of several reasons, individual and otherwise, why this should be. Involvement in fandom at University is notoriously a distraction from study: maybe students these days refuse to be distracted. Perhaps students are no longer attracted to fandom-as-we-know-it at all, because of the decline

in reading and the increase in video-watching that has been taking place for many years.

Perhaps students quite simply cannot afford to attend their first convention, and so fail to develop the interest in fandom that would make them want to organise a convention in the first place. Travel is expensive, and except for a couple of hundred people who travel fairly freely, conventions are local affairs, attended mainly by people who live within a few miles of the con, and there are large areas of the country where cons are never held. This, incidentally, is another advantage of Unicons: since they departed Keele they have been held in Colchester, Oxford, Cambridge and now Guildford. Not the widest geographical spread possible, but at least places other than the fannish centres of Birmingham, Brighton, Glasgow and Leeds.

Perhaps it is quite simply that the science-fiction societies have failed to attract the synergistic group of movers and shakers necessary to impel passive science-fiction fans into con-running activity. Such groups are sometimes formed, as was amply demonstrated by the existence of the first three Unicons, which were (I believe) run by the same group of students each year until they graduated and went their separate ways.

I am not sure why these three cons managed to attract fannish attention sufficient to continue the existence of the series when the original impulse faded. The Polycons at Hatfield Polytechnic and the Picocons at Imperial College do not, as far as I know, attract any significant audience other than the students at the respective institutions. Obviously there is something about a Unicorn that some people value enough to try to keep them running, but these people are no longer students themselves.

Or were not until now. Whatever the reason why students have not bid for the past four Unicons, it does seem to me to be significant that it is in Cambridge - where two successful conventions (Fencon, Camcon) have been held in the last few years, and where the Cambridge University Science Fiction Society (C.U.S.F.S.) and the Cambridge Fantasy Society have continuous contact with graduates who are now enthusiastic and active fans - that a committee composed largely of students is trying to put together a bid to hold Unicorn 8 in Cambridge. There are rumours of stirrings elsewhere in the land, but these are strictly hearsay, and an appeal for potential bidders for Unicorn 8 in Progress Report 3 has not (at the time of writing) produced any response.

The business meeting at ConSept will decide whether or not there will be a Unicorn 8. I hope there will be one. I hope that students - whether in Cambridge or elsewhere - will come forward to run it. This year, if students do not volunteer I do not know who else will. Unicorn 8 will be held in 1987, a year in which almost every group of active con-runners in the country is busy with a convention to be held that year or next. The fans who formed the last three Unicorn committees are almost all involved to a greater or lesser degree in the Worldcon, and/or one of the next few Eastercons. If the Unicorn does lapse, there is no mechanism for reviving it; even though the Steering Committee would remain in existence there is nothing obvious it could do.

Camcon was originated at breakfast on the morning of the bidding session, and turned out to be one of the best cons of 1985. Student, or anyone, go thou and do likewise.

Insofar as it has been deemed necessary to perpetuate the Unicon series of science fiction conventions the following regulations are presented to distinguish these conventions from similar events:

1. They shall bear the name Unicon and have a consecutive numbering or year suffix as all or part of their title.
2. They shall be held at residential establishments of higher education, and shall use the accomodation and facilities there provided.
3. They shall be held within the months of July, August or September.
4. The site of the convention shall be decided at the previous Unicon in a properly conducted bidding session or, failing this, by the Unicon steering committee:

(a) Bidding session.

(i) All potential bidding committees who have made their presence known shall be invited to present their bid at the session for a period not exceeding one half hour, except when only one valid bid exists in which case the time limit on the presentation may be fixed by the current Unicon committee.

(ii) There shall always be a null option of 'no convention' given as a voting choice.

(iii) Voting will be carried out by a show of hands.

(b) Steering Committee.

(i) This shall be responsible for maintenance and amendment of this charter, the administration of excess funds should no convention win the bidding ceremony, and shall act as arbitrator should disputes concerning Unicon arise.

(ii) Each past and present Unicon committee shall nominate one member to be a member of the steering committee.

(iii) The acting chairperson of the steering committee shall be the member nominated by the current Unicon and his functions will include: notifying steering committee members of transfer of excess funds from his convention, notifying all potential convention bids of these regulations, and providing for each member of the steering committee and for both the treasurer and chairperson of the next Unicon an accurate statement of accounts for his convention.

(iv) The voting membership of the steering committee shall be the nominees of the last seven Unicons. A quorum shall consist of four voting members, and decisions shall be taken by a majority of the voting members, whether or not present at the meeting. Meetings of the steering committee shall be notified at least one month in advance to all members of the steering committee, whether or not they are voting members. A meeting shall be held at Unicon, and the written undertaking required by clause 8 shall be the notice of this meeting.

5. The surplus funds from a Unicon convention shall be disposed of as follows:

(a) Where the sum total does not exceed £200 the surplus shall be passed within a reasonable time to the convention that wins the bidding ceremony.

(b) Where the sum total exceeds £200, 50% or £200 (whichever is greater) shall be passed on as in 5(a) and the remainder shall be disposed of as the convention committee sees fit in a manner designed to benefit fandom, subject to approval by the steering committee.

(c) Where no convention bid has been successfully made for the coming year the surplus funds shall be passed to the steering committee within a reasonable time.

6. The convention shall be insured:

(a) Against loss of, or damage to, its property and that for which it is legally responsible, including building, machinery, plant, fixtures and fittings provided to it by the property owners or management of the venue for the purpose of the convention.

(b) Against loss resulting from the cancellation, curtailment, postponement or abandonment in whole or part of the convention, the non-appearance of a principal speaker, or failure of the convention to vacate the premises at the termination of its tenancy.

(c) So as to be indemnified for all sums which the committee shall be legally liable for arising from bodily injury and property damage to employees and the general public arising out of an occurrence in connection with the convention.

7. The convention committee undertake:

(a) To be liable for any deficit arising from their own convention.

(b) To cover any debts occurring in connection with any past Unicon which no longer holds funds, providing such debts do not exceed the value of funds passed to them by the previous Unicon or by the steering committee.

8. The convention committee shall agree to abide by the regulations presented in this document, and shall send a written undertaking to this effect (signed at minimum by the chairperson, secretary and treasurer of the convention, or the equivalent posts) to each member of the steering committee. Ambiguities and disputes arising from these regulations shall be settled by the steering committee in the light of common sense and with a view to the continuity of the Unicon series.

Membership of the steering committee as at 8th August 1986

John Fairey
Chrissie Pearson
Jan Huxley
Alex Stewart
Hugh Mascetti
Tim Illingworth
Caroline Mullan (chair)

interzone

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CONSEPT:UN7CON MEMBERSHIP LIST

This membership list is correct to 27th July 1986.

Key: A=Attending, S=Supporting

1	Tanith	Lee	A	60	Peter	Wareham	A
3	Brian	Ameringen	A	61	John	Bark	S
4	Peter	Cohen	A	62	Mike	Cheater	A
5	Steve	Davies	A	63	Phil	Plumbly	A
6	Tim	Illingworth	A	64	Dov	Rigal	A
7	Alison	McDonald	A	65	David	Strong	S
8	Caroline	Mullan	A	66	Paul	Winship	S
9	Anne	Page	A	67	Juliet	Eyeions	A
10	John	Stewart	A	68	Katherine M	Wright	A
11	Colin	Fine	A	69	G	Millington	A
12	Mike	Abbott	A	70	John	Murphy	A
13	Philip	Allcock	A	71	David	Elworthy	A
14	Trevor	Barker	A	72	Michael	Bernardi	A
15	John	Botham	A	73	Ruth	Le Sueur	A
16	Mike	Christie	A	74	Barbara	Conway	A
17	Mike	Cule	A	75	Larry	Van Der Putte	A
18	John	Dallman	A	76	James R	Steel	A
19	Mike	Damesick	A	77	Steve	Bull	A
20	Zoe	Deterding	A	78	Martin	Harlow	A
21	Paul	Dormer	A	79	W.A.	McCabe	A
22	Richard C.	Edwards	A	80	Rob	Meades	S
23	Gwen	Funnell	A	81	John	Dodds	A
24	Julian	Headlong	A	82	Robin	Goswell	A
25	R.	Meehan	A	83	Phil	Nansen	A
26	Roger	Robinson	A	84	Chuck	Connor	S
27	Michael	Sandy	A	85	Ian	Sorenson	A
28	Joyce E.	Slater	A	86	Tim	Adye	A
29	Kenneth F.	Slater	A	87	Jon D.	Axtell	A
30	Mike	Stone	A	88	Andy	Barkham	A
31	Kathy	Westhead	A	89	Helen	Bernardi	A
32	Mike	Westhead	A	90	Ben	Brown	A
33	Kate	Solomon	S	91	Robert	Burrage	A
34	Malcolm	Davies	S	92	Rafe	Culpin	A
35	Dave	Ellis	A	93	Iain	Dickson	S
36	Joy	Hibbert	A	94	Martin	Dickson	A
37	Dave	Rowley	A	95	Pete	Gilligan	A
38	Pompino	The Kregoyne	A	96	Maria	Hamilton	A
39	Jan	Lake	A	97	Teresa	Hehir	A
40	Ken	Lake	A	98	Marina	Holroyd	A
41	J.W.	Lemming	A	99	Morag	Kerr	A
42	Bernard	Peek	A	100	Barbara	Kitson	A
43	Mike	Scott	A	101	Steve	Linton	A
44	Phil	Spencer	A	102	W.P.	Longley	A
45	Alex	Stewart	A	103	Patricia	MacLennan	S
46	Neil	Taylor	S	104	Debby	Moir	A
47	Simon	Beresford	A	105	Mike	Moir	A
48	Bernie	Evans	S	106	Andrew	Norcross	A
49	Susan	Francis	A	107	Dai	Price	S
50	Bruce J. H.	MacDonald	A	108	John	Richards	A
51	Rory O.	McLean	A	109	Steve	Rothman	A
52	Mark	Meenan	S	110	D.M.	Sherwood	S
53	Nick	Mills	A	111		Tibs	A
54	Gytha	North	S	112	Dave	Turtle	A
55	Roger	Perkins	A	113	Pete	Tyers	S
56	Marcus	Rowland	A	114	Richard	Vine	S
57	Peter J. R.	Smith	A	115	John	Wilkes	S
58	Robert	Sneddon	A	116	Tim	Broadribb	A
59	Tom	Taylor	A	117	Ruth	Bygrave	A

118	Pete	Cox	A	137	Peter	Rippingale	A
119	Roger	Dearnaley	A	138	John	Styles	A
120	Mike	Gould	A	139	Susan	Thurston	A
121	Carol Ann	Green	A	140	I.	Bell	A
122	Rhodri	James	A	141	Brett	Cockrell	A
123	Jane	Killick	A	142	Ric	Cooper	A
124	Hugh	Mascetti	A	143	Laurence	Dean	S
125	Kari	Maund	A	144	Michele	Dennis	A
126	Helen	McCarthy	A	145	Joan	Fine	A
127	Alan	Raphaeline	A	146	Martin	Hoare	A
128	N.R.	Tringham	A	147	Katie	Hoare	A
129	Jenny	Watson	A	148	Dave	Power	A
130	David	Willis	A	149	Barbara	Rochford	A
131	Laurence	Barker	A	150	David	Row	A
132	Norman	Baxter	A	151	Andy	Robertson	A
133	Ian S.G.	Curtis	A	152	Ivan	Towlson	A
134	Steven	Lawson	S	153	S. J.	White	A
135	Peter	Memmott	A	154	Brian	Stableford	A
136	Nigel	Parsons	S				

WHERE EVERYTHING IS

The University of Surrey at Guildford is built on the side of a hill, accross the River Mole from the town itself. The University is made up of all modern buildings, even the Cathedral which stands at the top of the hill and serves as a useful landmark for finding your way back to the campus. ConSept is using four main areas of the campus, all within a couple of minutes walk, these are:

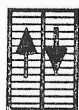
The Lecture Block - This is where the programme is going to be happening. The main programme is in Room G (upper floor), the workshops are in Room B (lower floor) and the Book Room is in Room K (upper floor). The Students' coffee lounge at the back of the building may be open at some times for parties and other noisy activities.

The Students' Union - This is the bar. There will also be cheap food available here at midday and in the evening.

Surrey Court - This is where the accommodation is. Surrey Court is divided into a number of blocks, each named after a river. There are a number of large communal kitchens with telephones etc. and a television room near the reception area.

Hall - The only time we will be using this building is for breakfast.

You will find a map of the campus and one of the lecture block on Pages 30 and 31 of this Programme Book.



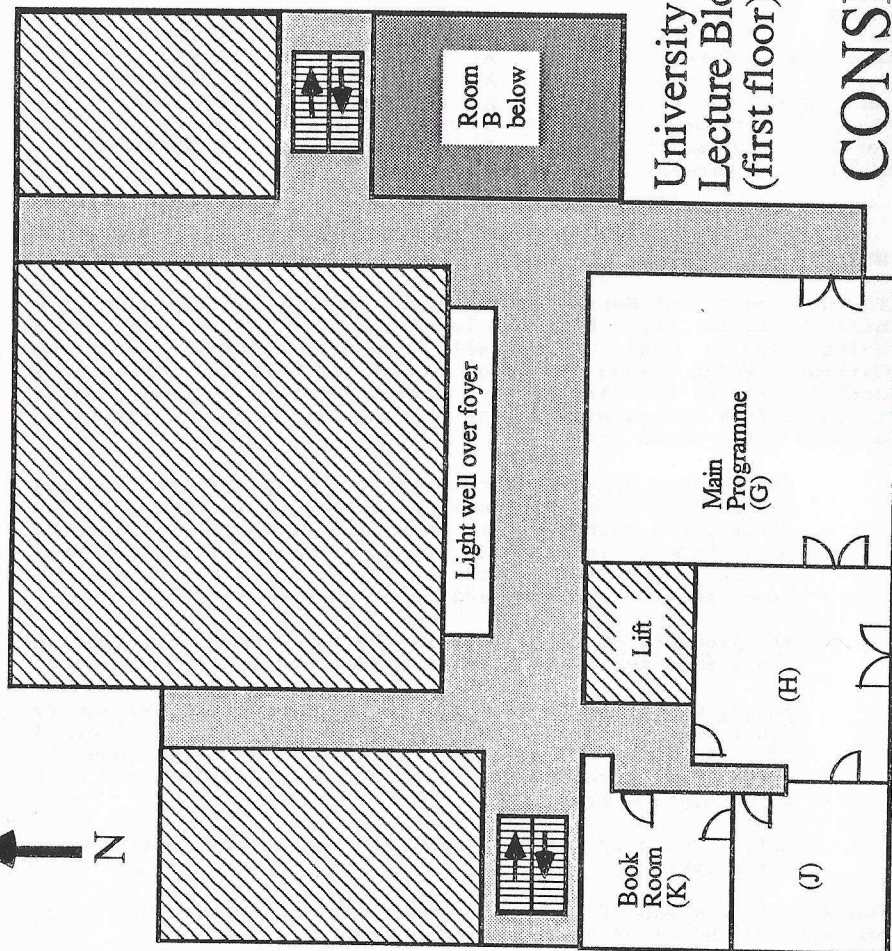
Stairs



Not in use



In use



University of Guildford
Lecture Block
(first floor)

CONCEPT

Campus Map

